

Message Text

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ACTION INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7371

INFO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY BANGUI

AMEMBASSY ROME

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDIP, FR

SUBJECT: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON ALBERT DE
SCHONEN, NEW FRENCH AMBASSADOR TO NEW ZEALAND.

L. ALBERT DE SCHONEN, WHO HOLDS THE TITLE OF MINISTER
PLENIPOTENTIARY IN THE FRENCH FOREIGN SERVICE AND WHO
MOST RECENTLY WAS FRENCH AMBASSADOR TO THE FAO, HAS
BEEN NAMED AMBASSADOR TO NEW ZEALAND, REPLACING
CHARLES DE NICOLAY, WHO HAS REPORTEDLY REACHED THE
AGE OF RETIREMENT. ACCORDING TO PUBLISHED SOURCES,
DE SCHONEN WAS BORN IN 1912 IN PARIS AND DID GRADUATE
STUDIES IN LAW AND POLITICAL SCIENCE, OBTAINING A
MASTER'S OF LAWS, A DIPLOMA IN PUBLIC INTERNATIONAL
LAW AND POLITICAL ECONOMY, AND A DIPLOMA FROM THE
FREE SCHOOL OF POLITICAL SCIENCE.

2. DE SCHONEN SERVED IN THE FREE FRENCH FORCES DURING
THE WAR BEFORE JOINING THE FOREIGN SERVICE IN 1945.
HE SERVED AT THE QUAI FROM 1945 TO 1947, SUCCESSIVELY
IN THE OFFICES OF EUROPEAN, MULTILATERAL AND PRESS
AFFAIRS, AND SERVED AS A MEMBER OF THE FRENCH DELEGATION
TO THE UN IN 1946 AND 1947. HE THEN HELD THE
FOLLOWING POSTS: FIRST SECRETARY IN PRAGUE (1948),
FIRST SECRETARY IN DUBLIN (1949-1950), DEPUTY

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SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE PERMANENT COMMISSION OF THE

TREATY OF BRUSSELS (1950-1952), POLITICAL COUNSELOR
AT THE NATO SECRETARIAT (1952-1954), FIRST
SECRETARY IN BANGKOK (1954-1956), QUAI INDO-CHINA
AFFAIRS (1956-1957), OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF FOR
NATIONAL DEFENSE (1957-1961), FIRST COUNSELOR IN
BRUSSELS (1961-1964), AMBASSADOR TO ZAMBIA (1966-1969)
AS WELL AS TO BOTSWANA (1967-1969), AMBASSADOR TO
THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (1969-1971) AND
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE FAR SINCE 1972.

3. EMBASSY LUSAKA FOUND DE SCHONEN A POLISHED DIPLOMAT
WHO WAS OFTEN HELPFUL AND, WHILE TYPICALLY FRENCH, EASY
TO WORK WITH. IN VIEW OF HIS AGE AND HIS LACK OF
PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE IN ASIAN OR ENGLISH SPEAKING
COUNTRIES, DE SCHONEN'S ASSIGNMENT REFLECTS THE LESS
THAN OVERWHELMING IMPORTANCE OF FRANCO-NEW ZEALAND
RELATIONS.
RUSH

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